



# SPECIALIZED POPULATIONS QUICK START GUIDE

This guide from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) serves to streamline the onboarding of new staff members who will work with specialized populations. Specialized populations refer to groups that may have unique barriers to education, including but not limited to Black students, Hispanic students, and those impacted by lower socioeconomic status. This resource offers a starting point for collaborative conversations supporting the amplification of specialized populations student learning and participation in schools. This is not a comprehensive list.

## Resources

Ensure that you have access to the following resources and systems, as applicable.

### U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & IDOE

- [U.S. DOE Office of Elementary & Secondary Education webpage:](#)
  - Supporting Special Populations
  - Resources for Educators and Schools
- [U.S. DOE Office of Civil Rights](#)
- [IDOE Student Learning and Pathways webpage:](#)
  - Early Learning
  - Graduation Pathways
  - Special Education
  - Military Children and Families
- [IDOE Office of Student Support and Accessibility \(OSSA\) webpage:](#)
  - Technical Assistance (TA) Request Form
  - Student Support and Accessibility Community in Moodle
  - OSSA Professional Development Opportunities Calendar
- [IDOE McKinney-Vento: Homeless Children and Youth Program](#)
- [IDOE School Counseling, Guidance, Psychology, Social Work & Foster Youth webpage](#)
- [IDOE English Learning and Migrant Education webpage](#)
- [IDOE LINK Portal](#)
- [Indiana Learning Lab](#)



### LOCAL

- Corporation Learning Management and/or Student Information System
- Corporation/School Curriculum and Maps

### Additional Technical Assistance Resources

- [National Center for Homeless Education \(NCHE\)](#)
- [Neglected or Delinquent Education Technical Assistance Center \(NDTAC\)](#)
- [U.S. DOE Equity Assistance Centers:](#)
  - Midwest & Plains Equity Assistance Center

### Additional IDOE Quick Start Guides

- Specialized populations can apply to various student subgroups, including special education and English learner (EL) students.
- IDOE provides separate Special Education and EL Quick Start Guides. These can be found on IDOE's [OSSA website](#), under the OSSA Resources tab.



## Policies and Procedures

Work with your leadership team to review and understand the following key specialized population programming areas as they pertain to your role within the corporation or school setting.

### Desegregation Case Laws

- Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
- Green v. County School Board (1968)
- Sheff v. O'Neill (2008)

### Specialized Population Policy

- 14th Amendment Equal Protection Clause
- National School Lunch Act
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 - Title VI
- Title IX
- Equal Educational Opportunities Act
- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act

### Student Transportation & Access

### Providing Core Specialized Population Supports

- Program Models
- Staffing/Curriculum
- Counseling/Social Work

### Specialized Population Students with Disabilities

### Parent Communication & Family Engagement

### Stakeholder & Community Engagement

### Statewide Assessments

- Accessibility & Accommodations

### Access to Corporation Data and Core Curriculum

### Specialized Population Professional Learning

## Contacts

Make appropriate connections with the following stakeholders. Document names and contact information (email and phone number) of individuals for future reference.

### State

### Corporation

### School

Student Support and  
Accessibility Team

Family Engagement Specialist

Lead/Mentor Teacher

Social Work and  
Foster Youth Specialist

Interpreters

Instructional Coach

Homeless Education Specialist

Curriculum/Student Services  
Director

Social Worker/School Counselor

School Counseling Specialist

Data Director/Coordinator

Principal/Assistant Principal